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A combined contribution with

-Cooperative Extension Service  
-USDA Farm Service Agency  
-The Oklahoma Mesonet

### Rain Needed

**August 27** - Most areas of Oklahoma failed to receive rainfall again last week for the fourth week in a row and the extended hot and dry weather have further deteriorated crops and pastures. Crops in many areas are showing signs of stress with the threat of decreased potential in production. Significant rainfall is needed throughout the State. Land preparation and planting for fall crops remained on hold or slowed in many areas. All districts had an average high temperature of 100 degrees or greater. Precipitation was received in only a few isolated areas and both topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies continued to diminish rapidly, particularly in the southern and western portions of the State. Farmers had 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

#### TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	44	49	7	0
Last Week	25	60	15	0
Last Year	28	58	14	0

#### SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	25	50	25	0
Last Week	14	48	38	0
Last Year	15	41	44	0

**SMALL GRAINS:** Dry weather and armyworm aggression have furthered delays in preparation for planting wheat in many areas of the State. Wheat seedbed preparation slowed last week with 49 percent of the acreage prepared, which was slightly behind normal. Fall planting will most likely be delayed in many areas if moisture is not received soon. Anhydrous ammonia was applied in many areas. A few areas in the Central and Northeast districts were able to start planting wheat.

**ROW CROPS:** Dryland row crops continued to be hampered from the combination of hot weather and dry conditions. Corn remained in mostly good condition across the state, but moisture is desperately needed in the Southwest district. The corn crop jumped to 97 percent in the soft dough stage last week. Sorghum was in mostly fair condition, while heading only slightly progressed from last week to 74 percent statewide. Soybeans were in mostly fair condition, but in many areas the crop is in critical shape. Moisture is needed to assist proper filling of pods. The Central district had a few reports of soybeans being baled in order to salvage some of the crop. Cotton and peanuts were rated in mostly good to fair condition statewide. As of Sunday, 89 percent of the peanut crop had set pods. Dryland peanuts are showing brown spots in the fields due to lack of rainfall. Problems with spider mites were reported. Nearly all cotton fields have set bolls which was slightly ahead of pace.

#### ROW CROPS CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending August 27, 2000

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	5	7	25	61	2
Sorghum	6	23	39	28	4
Soybeans	7	17	40	34	2
Peanuts	2	14	41	38	5
Cotton	7	14	30	34	15

**HAY:** Alfalfa was rated in mostly good to fair condition. The fourth cutting of alfalfa proceeded ahead last week to 61 percent completion and remained well ahead of the five year average. The fifth cutting of alfalfa was reported in a few isolated areas in the central part of the State. All other hay was in mostly fair condition statewide. Hay conditions in the southern and western districts have been the most affected by the hot and dry conditions.

#### HAY CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending August 27, 2000

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	6	16	41	33	4
Other Hay	7	15	42	33	3

**PASTURE:** Pastures continued to suffer from the heat and dry conditions, particularly in the Southwest and South Central districts. Some cattle producers were providing supplemental feed due to the lack of adequate pastures. Pasture conditions were rated in fair to poor condition. Testing forages for nitrate poisoning and prussic acid continued to be reported.

**LIVESTOCK:** Livestock remained in mostly good condition. Cattle auctions reported average marketings for the week. Water levels in ponds and streams continued to decline statewide which was causing cattle producers to haul water in effected areas. Insect pressures on cattle continued to be moderate statewide.

#### LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending August 27, 2000

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	4	31	60	5
Pasture & Range	8	23	47	22	0

**MISCELLANEOUS CROPS:** Watermelon harvest was virtually complete by weeks end. This active pace remained well ahead of the five year average of 83 percent. Heat and disease continued to be a problem with the remainder of the crop rated in mostly fair condition.

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS									
August 27, 2000									
Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr. Avg	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr. Avg
Wheat -					Soybeans -				
Seedbed Prepared	49	46	54	50	Blooming	93	90	83	91
Planted	2	n/a	2	3	Setting Pods	72	70	68	74
					Mature	20	n/a	9	9
Oats -					Peanuts -				
Seedbed Prepared	45	43	48	41	Setting Pods	94	89	92	94
Planted	4	n/a	0	0	Mature	4	3	3	5
Rye -					Cotton -				
Seedbed Prepared	49	46	53	40	Setting Bolls	99	95	99	97
					Bolls Opening	12	3	3	6
Corn -					Alfalfa Hay -				
Dough	97	88	100	99	4 <sup>th</sup> Cutting	61	48	48	35
Mature	41	36	14	20	5 <sup>th</sup> Cutting	8	n/a	1	1
Harvested	10	n/a	6	5					
Sorghum -					Other Hay -				
Headed	74	73	88	82	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cutting	64	61	53	47
Coloring	50	35	16	28					
Mature	15	n/a	5	8	Watermelons -				
					Harvested	96	94	90	83

**WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 27, 2000** - Temperatures ranged from 57.9 degrees at Boise City on Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> to 108.6 degrees at Cherokee on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation averaged 0.00 in. several districts to 0.09 in. East Central district. Soil temperatures averaged 81.2 degrees at Boise City on Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> to 96.3 degrees at Waurika on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA							
Week Ending August 27, 2000							
Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	Average High	Average Low	Average	This Week	March 1 to August 27, 2000		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees			Inches			
Panhandle	100	67	84.3	0.00	13.3	- 0.11	99
West Central	101	73	87.2	0.02	20.85	+ 4.62	128
Southwest	101	72	87.0	0.04	18.08	+ 1.50	109
North Central	103	74	88.8	0.01	21.51	+ 4.17	124
Central	102	73	87.6	0.00	21.83	+ 2.06	110
South Central	101	73	87.5	0.00	16.51	- 4.60	78
Northeast	101	72	85.9	0.00	28.67	+ 6.10	127
East Central	101	72	86.6	0.09	26.52	+ 3.15	113
Southeast	102	69	85.2	0.02	21.29	- 4.89	81